

REVIEWED BY

F. Schneider DATE 7/2/85

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REF. (US)

ENDORSE EXISTING

REMARKS

DECLASSIFIED ☐RECLASSIFIED ☒RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTION

POSSIBLE F-15 TRANSFER TO

ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY FOR USE AGAINST ISRAEL

Saudi Arabia has agreed, in signing the sales contract for the F-15, not to transfer them to third countries without our approval in advance. Thus, a transfer is very unlikely, although theoretically possible; the Saudis would have to anticipate that such an action would disrupt the good relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia. In the event of an unauthorized transfer, the US could stop the flow of support, rendering the F-15s and other major US-origin systems (I-HAWK, F-5s) ineffective and severely weakening Saudi defenses.

-- In addition, the very nature of the F-15 weapons systems makes it difficult to transfer, in the sense of transferring an effective combat capability. No other Arab nation would have the trained pilots or technicians, ground support equipment, spare parts inventory or munitions to support F-15s.

-- Finally, preparations for such a transfer could not be accomplished without US personnel become aware.